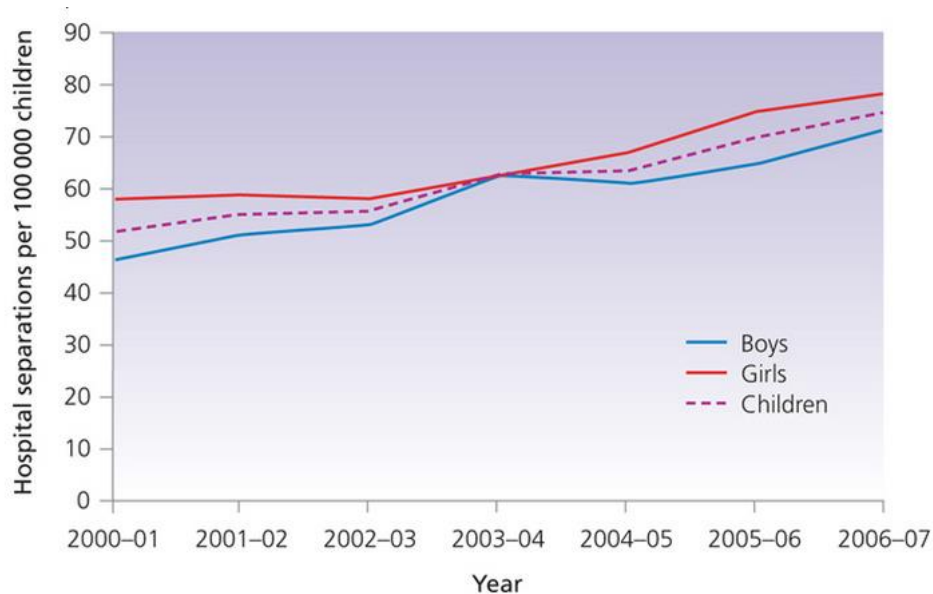


## KEY SKILL

Interpret data on the health status of Australia's children

This key skill requires the analysis of data related to the health of children. Data can be presented in a number of ways. To revisit this skill, refer to the key skills section of chapter 2 (KEY SKILL Interpret data on the health status of Australia's youth) and follow the steps outlined there. A knowledge of the basic issues concerning the health status of children will be beneficial in applying this key skill.

Analyse the data in figure 6.35 and use it to draw conclusions about the health status of Australia's children. In describing the trends evident in this graph, the following three statements can be made. However, there are important considerations to be taken into account.



Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2009, *A picture of Australia's children 2009*, cat. no. PHE 112, Canberra, p. 20.

**FIGURE 6.35** Diabetes hospital separations for children aged 0–14 years, 2000–01 to 2006–07

- Girls **generally**<sup>7</sup> have higher rates of **hospitalisations due to diabetes**<sup>8</sup> than boys.
- Rates for hospitalisations have increased from around 58 per 100 000 female children in 2000–01 to around **75 per 100 000**<sup>9</sup> female children in 2006–07.
- The rates of hospitalisations due to diabetes have increased for both males and females **between 2000–01 and 2006–07**.<sup>10</sup>

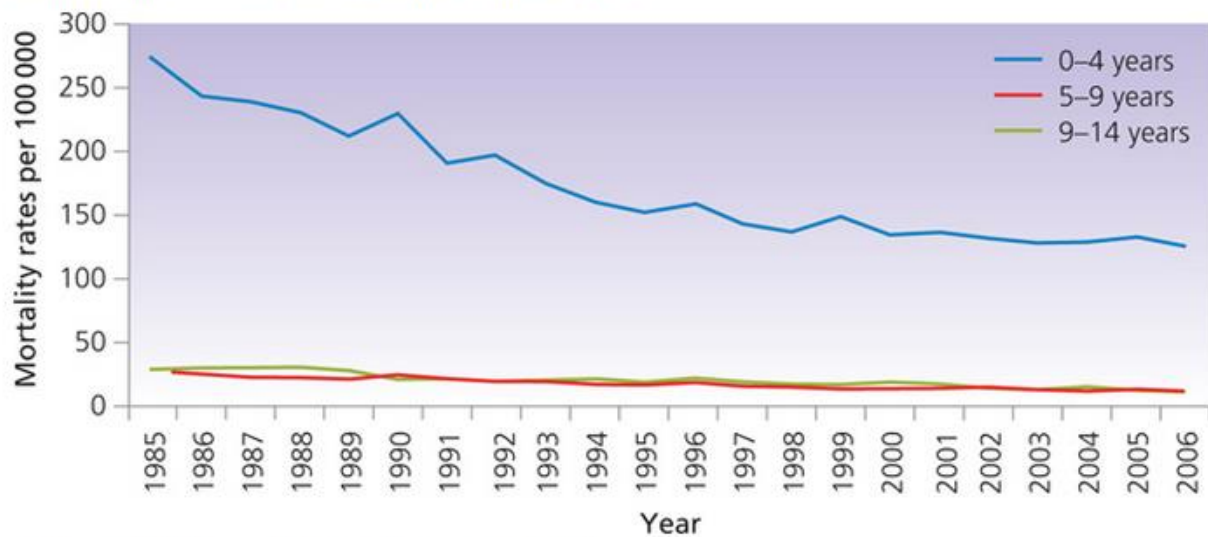
7 In 2003–04, the rates were very similar. Including the qualifier 'generally' takes this factor into account.

8 It is important to clearly state the trend that is being identified.

9 This information might also be presented in a different way. For example: 'Female hospitalisations due to diabetes have increased by around 17 per 100 000 children.' A similar trend focusing on 'males' or 'all children' could also be used.

10 Reference is made to the span of years over which the trend occurred. Try to avoid making statements like 'hospitalisations have increased', as this indicates that the trend is currently occurring when the data do not support this.

3 Study figure 6.36 and answer the questions that follow.



Source: Adapted from AIHW, National mortality database.

**FIGURE 6.36** Mortality rates over time, per 100 000 for selected age groups

a. Identify two trends in the mortality rates as shown in figure 6.36.

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**2 marks**

b. Use your knowledge of children's health status to list three causes of death that are common in the 0-4 age group.

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**3 marks**

c. Discuss how causes of mortality change between infancy and childhood.

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**4 marks**